

Good! km

December 2, 1977

Memo to File:

Re: Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp.
ACT/045/002

On November 30, 1977, Ron Daniels, Jim Smith and myself made a field inspection of Kaiser's Wendover Potash plant. We were met by Mr. Glen Wadsworth (geologist) and Mr. Walt Johnson (plant manager). Deterioration of the Bonneville Racetrack, the U.S.G.S. Open File Report entitled Hydrology and Surface Morphology of the Bonneville Salt Flats and Pilot Valley Playa, Utah, operations north of I-80, and general clean-up operations were discussed. Mr. Johnson gave us a tour of the operation north of I-80.

Kaiser has not produced brine from the collection ditches north of the pumping station, located in the SW corner of Section 28, within the past year. However, production should begin again this winter. The arcuate Salduro ditch north of I-80 was abandoned in the mid 1960's. Spoils from the ditch construction are heaped to the outside and are approximately 6-8 feet high. If a project to fill the ditch with the spoils were initiated, much material would have to be removed from site as wind has partially filled in the ditch with clastic material. Ron Daniels suggested using federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund money to pay for the project. Mr. Johnson stated Kaiser would accept any reclamation treatment for the ditch as long as they would not be responsible for costs.

Mr. Johnson stated that he felt the report is a good general summary of data previously collected. However, he feels the report neglects to mention that the BLM now manages the track on a budget of approximately \$3,000 a year, whereas the State previously managed the track on a budget of approximately \$40,000 a year. Mr. Wadsworth, Kaiser's geologist, was previously employed by the State Highway Department and used to grade the track. He agreed with Mr. Johnson that management of the track may be contributing to the track's deterioration. Kaiser has hired Mr. L. J. Turk to conduct an additional hydrologic study of the area.

As the BLM is charged with managing the track and they control the Minerals Lease, Mr. Johnson would prefer all action concerning the problem be coordinated through them.

K. MICHAEL THOMPSON
RECLAMATION HYDROLOGIST

Enclosures: Map